

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough consideration provided the present application. Claims 1-3, 5-7, 11-13 and 15-29 are now present in the application. Claims 1, 5, 11, 12, 15 and 16 have been amended. Claims 18-29 have been added. Claim 4, 8-10 and 14 have been cancelled. Claims 1 and 5 are independent. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

Claims 11 and 15 have been objected. In view of the foregoing amendments, it is respectfully submitted that this objection has been addressed. In particular, claims 11 and 15 now recite "the right roller and the left roller rotate in opposite directions." As embodied in FIG. 1 of the present application, since the right roller and the left roller are located on the opposite sides of the rail, the right roller and the left roller will always rotate in opposite directions (clockwise and counterclockwise) in order to move the base body in the same direction. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of these objections are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-11, 13-15 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kunakubo [sic., Funakubo], U.S. Patent No. 5,416,375, in view of Nonaka, U.S. Patent No. 5,267,796. Claims 12 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kunakubo [sic., Funakubo] in view of Nonaka, and further in view of Stotzel, U.S. Patent No. 4,978,233. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Complete discussions of the Examiner's rejections are set forth in the Office Action, and are not being repeated here.

In light of the foregoing amendments to the claims, Applicants respectfully submit that these rejections have been obviated and/or rendered moot. Without conceding to the propriety of the Examiner's rejections, but merely to timely advance the prosecution of the application, as the Examiner will note, independent claims 1 and 5 have been amended to respectively incorporate claims 4 and 8. In particular, independent claims 1 and 5 have been amended to recite a combination of elements including "each of the pair of right and left ultrasonic vibrators and each of the pair of right and left rollers are supported by a respective holder member disposed on the base body, the holder members being urged by the urging member toward the side faces of the rail." Applicants respectfully submit that the above combination of elements set forth in claims 1 and 5 is not disclosed or suggested by the references relied on by the Examiner.

In particular, although the Examiner referred to Funakubo's retaining portion 23 as the holding frame/holder member of the present invention, Funakubo's retaining portion 23 is not urged by the friction section 14 (referred to by the Examiner as the urging member) toward the side faces of the rail. In fact, since Funakubo's retaining portion 23 is located at the center of elastic body 11, no matter how the voltage is applied to the terminals A and B of the piezoelectric element 12, Funakubo's retaining portion 23 is not urged by the friction section 14 at all (see FIGs. 3(a) and 3(b)). Therefore, Funakubo fails to teach "each of the pair of right and left ultrasonic vibrators and each of the pair of right and left rollers are supported by a respective holder member disposed on the base body, *the holder members being urged by the urging member toward the side faces of the rail*" as recited in claims 1 and 5.

With regard to the Examiner's reliance on the secondary references, these references have only been relied on for their teachings related to some dependent claims. These references also fail to disclose the above combination of elements as set forth in amended independent claims 1 and 5. Accordingly, these references fail to cure the deficiencies of Tomoki.

Accordingly, none of the utilized references individually or in combination teach or suggest the limitations of amended independent claims 1 and 5. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent claims 1 and 5 clearly define over the teachings of the utilized references.

In addition, claims 2, 3, 6, 7, 11-13 and 15-17 depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent claims 1 and 5, and are therefore allowable based on their respective dependence from independent claims 1 and 5, which are believed to be allowable.

In view of the above remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-3, 5-7, 11-13 and 15-17 clearly define the present invention over the references relied on by the Examiner. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103 are respectfully requested.

Additional Claims

Claims 18-29 has been added for the Examiner's consideration. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 18-29 depend, either directly or indirectly, from amended independent claims 1 and 5, and are therefore allowable based on its dependence from amended independent claims 1 and 5, which are believed to be allowable. Consideration and allowance of claims 18-29 are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

All the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed and/or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently pending rejections and that they be withdrawn.

It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the Office Action, and that as such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to send the application to Issue.

In the event there are any matters remaining in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Cheng-Kang (Greg) Hsu, Registration No. 61,007 at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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